

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DURRELL ANTHONY PUCKETT,
Plaintiff,
v.
HEATH, et al.,
Defendants.

No. 2:22-cv-00476-CKD P

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-
SCREENING ADR PROJECT AND
STAYING CASE FOR 120 DAYS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding without counsel. Defendants Dunlap, Easton, R. Gonzalez, Gorski, Heath, Lockwood, Marfil, and H. Williams have answered the complaint.

The undersigned is referring all post-screening civil rights cases filed by pro se inmates to the Post-Screening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Project in an effort to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. Defense counsel from the Office of the California Attorney General has agreed to participate in this pilot project. No defenses or objections shall be waived by their participation.

As set forth in the screening order, plaintiff has stated a potentially cognizable civil rights claim. Thus, the court stays this action for a period of 120 days to allow the parties to investigate plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and then participate in a settlement conference.

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1 There is a presumption that all post-screening civil rights cases assigned to the
2 undersigned will proceed to settlement conference.¹ However, if after investigating plaintiff's
3 claims and speaking with plaintiff, and after conferring with defense counsel's supervisor,
4 defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources,
5 defense counsel may move to opt out of this pilot project. A motion to opt out must be filed
6 within sixty days of the date of this order.

7 Within thirty days, the assigned Deputy Attorney General shall contact this court's
8 Courtroom Deputy, Lisa Kennison, at (916) 930-4004, to schedule the settlement conference. If
9 difficulties arise in scheduling the settlement conference due to the court's calendar, the parties
10 may seek an extension of the initial 120 day stay.

11 Once the settlement conference is scheduled, at least seven days prior to conference, the
12 parties shall submit to the assigned settlement judge a confidential settlement conference
13 statement. The parties' confidential settlement conference statement shall include the following:
14 (a) names and locations of the parties; (b) a short statement of the facts and alleged damages; (c) a
15 short procedural history; (d) an analysis of the risk of liability, including a discussion of the
16 efforts made to investigate the allegations; and (e) a discussion of the efforts that have been made
17 to settle the case.

18 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

19 1. This action is stayed for 120 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
20 dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by subsequent court
21 order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this case during the stay of this
22 action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but the parties may elect to engage in
23 informal discovery.

24 2. Defendants shall file any motion to opt out of the Post-Screening ADR Project no more
25 than sixty days from the date of this order.

26 3. Within thirty days from the date of this order, the assigned Deputy Attorney General
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28 ¹ If the case does not settle, the court will issue a discovery and scheduling order.

1 shall contact this court's Courtroom Deputy, Lisa Kennison, at (916) 930-4004, to schedule the
2 settlement conference.

3 4. At least seven days prior to the settlement conference, each party shall submit a
4 confidential settlement conference statement, as described above, to the judge assigned for
5 settlement.

6 5. If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the parties shall file
7 a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.

8 6. The parties remain obligated to keep the court informed of their current address at all
9 times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must be reported
10 promptly to the court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled "Notice of
11 Change of Address." See L.R. 182(f).

12 Dated: March 29, 2023



CAROLYN K. DELANEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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